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## Publisher Bestsellers / Kent State University Press

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# Publisher Bestsellers

**The Kent State University Press**

Column Editors: **Julia Gammon** (Univ. of Akron)

**Michael Kehoe** (Univ. of Michigan Press)



**Flo Cunningham**, Marketing Manager of the Kent State University Press was kind enough to share information on some titles for this issue of *ATG*. A specialty list consisting of Kent's "top ten" sellers in history and biography, it is certainly worth checking to see if you missed any of these. Sometimes good reviews and comments don't always mean a book will be an automatic bestseller, so take another glance at Kent's best kept secret — **American Chameleon: Individualism in Trans-National Context** — containing essays on the American concept of individualism. You may have missed it the first time . . . give it another chance.

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## Important Kent State University Press books in American history and biography

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### **Affectionately, Rachel: Letters from India, 1860-1884**

Edited by Barbara Mitchell Tull  
ISBN 0-87338-463-6, LC 92-4014, 1992

368 pp., illus., cloth \$35.00

"The letters of Rachel Kerr Johnson (1837-1888), offering the perspective of

a 19th-century woman, wife, mother, and American abroad, as she spent more than 20 years traveling in India with her missionary husband and their children." — *Reference and Research Book News* (see also *Library Journal*, December 1992).

### **Fallen Leaves: The Civil War Letters of Major Henry Livermore Abbott**

Edited by Robert Garth Scott  
ISBN 0-87338-440-7, LC 91-8019, 1991  
280 pp., illus., cloth \$27.00

"It is hard to forgive Abbott's prejudices, but impossible to fault his courage . . . Nor can anyone deny the candid eloquence that makes his letters among the most vivid I've read . . . filled with horrors and with flashes of grim humor that helped the men get through." — *Geoffrey C. Ward, The New York Times Book Review*

### **Fernando Wood: A Political Biography**

Jerome Mushkat  
ISBN 0-87338-413-X, LC 90-4486, 1990  
334 pp., illus., cloth \$35.00

"The complete coverage and extensive research in primary sources makes this a superior biography . . . Mushkat sees Wood as a model for future urban leaders, a consistent adherent to conservative Democratic ideals, and an effective leader, given the context of the times. This contrasts with the conventional view of Wood as an opportunistic demagogue, lacking in principles and meaningful leadership. The book is best when it places Wood in the milieu of his developing city and the attempts to manage its diversity." — *Choice*, December 1991

### **Fighting Liberty Ships: A Memoir**

A.A. Hoehling  
ISBN 0-87338-420-2, LC 90-4484, 1990

176 pp., illus., cloth \$22.00

"Memoirs by a skillful, seasoned writer who was a gunnery officer on two of the 2,700 Liberty ships which were built during WWII and used as merchant vessels to carry supplies to American forces. Hoehling has incorporated considerable background research and writes with verve about life (and death) aboard ship and the larger context as well." — *University Press Book News*

### **Liberalism and American Identity**

Patrick M. Garry  
ISBN 0-87338-451-2, LC 91-30840, 1992  
232 pp., cloth \$32.00

"Garry is an effective spokesman for a set of principles that have been — however unintentionally — undermined in recent years by what he sees as fractious special interests, especially within the Democratic party. With this book, the author raises important questions about how Americans choose to view themselves and the relationship of that image to practical politics. As a result, the book serves as a thought-provoking, if partisan, statement of ideals. Its intended audience would seem to be the general reader, but students of political thought or American character would also find much to ponder." — *History: Reviews of New Books*

### **OSS against the Reich: The World War II Diaries of Colonel David K.E. Bruce**

Edited by Nelson D. Lankford  
ISBN 0-87338-427-X, LC 90-47719, 1991  
256 pp., illus., cloth \$28.50

"Bruce was General Donovan's right hand man in running the OSS's London office . . . This book shows us the human side of intelligence work, especially from a man who would continue in high-level ambassadorial positions following the war . . . Well edited with meticulous footnotes . . . All in all, a jewel of a book on some of the personal aspects of wartime life by an intelligence officer who helped make the forerunner of the CIA a



success." — *Military Intelligence*

**Pattern of Circles: An Ambassador's Story**

John E. Dolibois

ISBN 0-87338-389-3, LC 89-8008, 1989

333 pp., illus., cloth \$24.00

"The author . . . served as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Army during and after World War II. His principal assignment, recounted in fascinating chapters in this engaging autobiography, was to help guard and interrogate the top Nazi war criminals." — *Foreign Affairs*

**Prison Life among the Rebels: Recollections of a Union Chaplain**

Edited by Edward D. Jervy

ISBN 0-87338-403-2, cloth \$26.00

ISBN 0-87338-404-0, paper \$12.50

LC 89-39689, 112 pp., 1990

"As a chaplain, White was spared the worst horrors of Confederate prison life, but his experiences in Rebel custody . . . were harrowing enough . . . White spent only a day at Andersonville, yet his description of that earthly hell is thorough, concise, and very chilling." — *American Heritage*

**Reform and Revolution: The Life and Times of Raymond Robins**

Neil V. Salzman

ISBN 0-87338-426-1, LC 90-5358

600 pp., illus., cloth \$35.00

"Robins (1873-1954), who led a remarkably diverse life of social service, stepped forward in 1917 voicing a minority view that cooperation with Communist Russia would best serve Allied interests. His life and thinking are of particular interest today in light of new U.S. relations with that part of the world." — *University Press Book News*

**Sixty Million Acres: American Veterans and the Public Lands before the Civil War**

James W. Oberly

ISBN 0-87338-421-0, LC 90-4482

234 pp., cloth \$28.00

"[Oberly's] conclusions are well conceived and supported with evidence from the sample and other archival sources. This study fills a gap in the literature of land policy and is essential for research collections on the West." — *Library Journal*, December 1990

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**The Kent State University Press Best-Kept Secret**

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**American Chameleon: Individualism in Trans-National Context**

Edited by Richard O. Curry and Lawrence B. Goodheart

ISBN 0-87338-443-1, cloth \$35.00

ISBN 0-87338-448-2, paper \$17.50

LC 91-7150, 288 pp., 1991

*Publishers Weekly*, November 8, 1991

"Although Curry (*Freedom at Risk*) and Goodheart (*Abolitionist, Actuary, Atheist*) clearly aim for an academic audience, general readers, too, will appreciate these 11 erudite but accessible essays on the American concept of individualism."

*Carl N. Degler, Stanford University*

"Must reading for any student of what it means to be an American and especially for those who doubt American exceptionalism."

Robert F. Drinan, S.J., Georgetown University Law Center

"For those who want to better understand the soul of America as the nation enters its third century, the essays in this volume will furnish information, illumination, and inspiration."

*Bertram Wyatt-Brown, University of Florida*

"Curry and Goodheart have assembled a highly distinguished group of historians to treat the salience of American individualism. . . . Given the topic's significance in American historical thought, one wonders why such a collection has not appeared before."

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**Richard O. Curry**, retired professor of history at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, is the author of the award-winning *Freedom at Risk: Secrecy, Censorship and Repression in the 1980s* and the recently published *An Uncertain Future: Thought Control and Repression during the Reagan-Bush Era*, as well as numerous other books and articles relating to civil liberties issues.

**Lawrence B. Goodheart**, assistant professor of history at the University of Connecticut, Hartford, is author of *Abolitionist, Actuary, Atheist: Elizur Wright and the Reform Impulse*.

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Contents: Curry and Goodheart, "Individualism in Trans-National Context"; Curry and Karl E. Valois, "The Emergence of an Individualist Ethos in American Society"; Robert M. Calhoun, "Religion and Individualism in Early America"; Robert C. Shalhope, "Individualism in the Early Republic"; James A. Henretta, "The Slow Triumph of Individualism: Law and Politics in New York, 1780-1860"; Curry, "'The Right to Self-Government': Anti-Institutionalism and Individualism in Abolitionist Thought"; Loren Schweninger, "From Assertiveness to Individualism: The Difficult Path from Slavery to Freedom"; Goodheart, "The Ambiguity of Individualism: The National Liberal League's Challenge to the Comstock Law"; Linda K. Kerber, "Can a Woman Be an Individual: The Discourse of Self-Reliance"; Yehoshua Arieli, "Individualism and National Identity"; Curry and Goodheart, "A Confusion of Voices: The Crisis of Individualism in Twentieth-Century America."

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